

WITT Meeting Reno March 2004

Present: Beth Palmer, chairman, Gail Greenberg, Nadine Wood, Jo Morse, Cheri Bjerkan, Lynn Baker, Charlie MacCracken and guests Tobi Sololow, David Sokolow, Joanna Stansbury, Jan Martel, Peggy Sutherlin, Jill Levin, Kerri Sanborn, and Valerie Westheimer.

A conference call was held March 10 (prior to Reno) to decide on the question of positioning points for any team that plays in the Vanderbilt. In attendance were Beth Palmer, Cheri Bjerkan, Carlyn Steiner, Shawn Quinn, Roseanne Pollack, Nadine Wood and guests Jan Martel, Irina Levitina and Rena Hetzer. The consensus was that any team that wins positioning points for the 2005 trials during the Reno Vanderbilt will not have these points reduced if a team member wins the 2004 Trials while playing on a different team.

The New Orleans minutes were approved with the following additions:

1. No consensus was reached after tallying the responses to the questionnaire concerning the trials that was distributed to the players in the Women's team event.
2. Regarding appeals Rose Meltzer is to be contacted to determine who is on the ITT appeals committee.
3. A vote was taken and passed to keep in our conditions of contest the section on arrival at the table and play at the announced starting time (penalties are assessed beginning with arrival of more than one minute after the announced starting time).

A discussion was held on the problems which may be created if the winner of this year's trials does not go to Turkey and is therefore one of the two teams for the 2005 Venice Cup. Primarily, the problems are the poisoning rule for the 2004 winner who wants to play in the 2005 trials and the positioning points earned by any team with a member of this year's winning trials team. The following motions were made:

1. Positioning points will not be effected if 2004 trials winner goes to the 2005 World Championship. Passed.
2. No player on the winning 2004 team is eligible to play in the 2005 trials. Passed.
3. A player can drop off of the winning 2004 team and be able to play in the 2005 trials if they do so prior to the entry deadline. Passed.
4. A player who drops off the winning 2004 team can be added back if they do not win the 2005 trials. Failed.
5. Poisoning rule in having an ineligible player will not reduce positioning points for this cycle. Passed.
6. The players needed for a core for 2005 trials is three, only for this cycle and only if the 2004 team does not go to Turkey. Passed.
7. If there is a core three, they receive 75% of the positioning points. Passed.

A premier event is being planned for the USBF regional. The open trials is going to include this in their events that earn positioning points. The question is, do we want to do the same. We voted no additions.

The number of teams entering our trials has been dropping. A primary reason is the high entry fees coupled with the necessity to pay USBF dues of \$50. Last year in order to have an event, one or two local teams did not pay their dues. Nadine requested the same for this year. This would only be for a team that has not previously entered the trials and only for the first stage. Dues would have to be paid if the team advanced to the next stage. Others suggested that the dues be waived for as long as the team remained in that trials. Jan will present this to the USBF Board at their meeting in May.

Even though the trials may be run with an odd number of teams, it is not a good situation and we prefer to have an even number. Nadine guaranteed an even number for the first round robin. We will qualify enough teams to have an even number in the second round robin.

Cheri will fix the seeding to be used in the round robins for this years trials. The final two sessions will be closed for both round robin stages.

Next meeting: Sunday, July 11, 11:30 p.m. New York Hilton. The room location to be determined.